

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SECTO 06011 160610Z
ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W
-----160613Z 087197 /13

O 160526Z JUN 77 ZFF-6
FM USDEL SECRETARY IN GRENADA
TO WHITE HOUSE IMMEDIATE
SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTO 06011

NODIS CHEROKEE

FOR PRESIDENT FROM SECRETARY
STATE FOR TARNOFF ONLY

E.O. 11652: XGDS 1
TAGS: OVIP (VANCE, CYRUS)
SUBJ: OAS GRENADA

1. DURING A PRIVATE DISCUSSION AT BREAKFAST, THE PANAMANIAN FOREIGN MINISTER SAID HIS COUNTRY WOULD HAVE TO BEGIN TODAY TO PREPARE PANAMANIAN PUBLIC OPINION AND AVOID DISAPPOINTMENT BY STRESSING NEGATIVE SIDE OF THE NEGOTIATIONS. THE ADVANCE TEXT OF HIS PREPARED SPEECH WHICH HE FURNISHED US FOLLOWED ALONG THOSE LINES, BUT WE WERE ABLE TO TALK HIM OUT OF MOST OF THE UNACCEPTABLE LANGUAGE. HE LEFT THE IMPRESSION THAT SETTling ECONOMIC BENEFITS TO PANAMA COULD STILL POSE SOME PROBLEMS, DESPITE MY INSISTENCE TO HIM THAT LARGE PAYMENTS WOULD BE POLITICALLY UNACCEPTABLE, AND THAT THE ECONOMIC BENEFITS TO PANAMA SHOULD DERIVE FROM THE CANAL'S OPERATIONS. IN MY OWN STATEMENT, I NOTED PROGRESS MADE IN NEGOTIATIONS AND EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT AN AGREEMENT COULD BE REACHED BY END OF SUMMER.

2. PRACTICALLY ALL STATEMENTS DURING INFORMAL DIALOGUES AT OAS FOCUSED ON HUMAN RIGHTS WITH NO MAJOR SUR-
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PRISES IN POSITIONS TAKEN BY VARIOUS COUNTRY DELEGATIONS, WITH EVEN HARDLINERS PRONOUNCING THEMSELVES IN FAVOR OF HUMAN RIGHTS AS SOON AS CONDITIONS IN THEIR COUNTRIES PERMIT. INCREASINGLY IT IS CLEAR THAT THIS OAS SESSION WILL BE MARKED BY THE HUMAN RIGHTS DEBATE. WHETHER OR NOT WE ACHIEVE SIGNIFICANT STRUCTURAL CHANGES THAT AFFECT HUMAN RIGHTS, WE WILL HAVE ATTRACTED WIDE ATTEN-

TION TO THE NATURE OF THE PROBLEM AND THE NECESSITY
FOR DEALING WITH IT EVEN IN THE MOST RECALCITRANT
NATIONS.

3. BELIZE. CARIBBEAN DELEGATIONS SPOKE IN FAVOR OF
BELIZE INDEPENDENCE AND GUATAMALA MADE A STRONG
DEFENSE OF ITS POSITION. IN PRIVATE DISCUSSIONS WITH
THE GUATAMALAN FOREIGN MINISTER, I GOT THE IMPRESSION
THERE MAY BE SOME WILLINGNESS TO COMPROMISE. I OFFERED
TO SPEAK TO THE BRITISH AND SUGGEST THAT THEY MAKE
A CONCRETE OFFER DURING JULY 6-7 UK/GUATAMALAN DISCUSS-
IONS IN WASHINGTON. THE GUATAMALANS WERE NOT ANXIOUS
TO COME FORTH WITH THEIR OWN PROPOSALS AND SUGGESTED
THAT WE INDUCE THE BRITISH TO MAKE A PROPOSAL WHICH
WOULD THEN BE CONSIDERED. I FOUND GUATAMALANS INTEREST-
ED IN IDEA OF OUTSIDE MEDIATION IF BILATERALS FAIL. I
WILL TAKE THIS UP WITH THE BRITISH LATER. IN ADDITION
TO ALL THIS, I HAD A GOOD TALK WITH THE MEXICANS ABOUT
THE BELIZE PROBLEM AND THEY ARE ALSO GOING TO CONCERT
THEIR EFFORTS WITH OURS TO SEE WHETHER A COMPROMISE
SOLUTION CAN BE ACHIEVED IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

4. I HAD A SERIES OF 10 BILATERALS TODAY DEALING WITH
HUMAN RIGHTS IN ALL CASES, BUT ALSO TOUCHING ON A
FEW OUTSTANDING PROBLEMS WE HAVE WITH EACH COUNTRY.
THERE WAS NOTHING PARTICULARLY SIGNIFICANT THAT DEVELOPED
IN THIS REGARD, BUT ALL OF THE FOREIGN MINISTERS
SEEMED TO ENJOY THE INFORMAL PROCESS OF DISCUSSION
THAT DEVELOPS IN THESE KINDS OF MEETINGS.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SECTO, HUMAN RIGHTS, FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETINGS, MEETING REPORTS, CAT-C, CHEROKEE 06/16/77
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 16-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977SECTO06011
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: FOR TARNOFF ONLY
Executive Order: X1
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: P840077-2180
Format: TEL
From: SECRETARY GRENADA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770650/aaaabrlg.tel
Line Count: 98
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 0ed37c7b-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NODS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS, ONLY
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS, ONLY
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2127834
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: OAS GRENADA
TAGS: PORG, SHUM, OVIP, OAS
To: STATE SS
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/0ed37c7b-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009